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## **ColorTouch Touch Screen Thermostat From Venstar Gives HVAC Distributors and Contractors New Revenue Opportunity**

**Multi-functional and simple to use, ColorTouch thinks it's a digital picture frame**

CHATSWORTH, Calif., November 2, 2010 — Venstar®, a leading thermostat and energy management systems supplier, today announced the launch of ColorTouch™, the multi-functional, simple-to-use, touch screen thermostat that thinks it's a digital picture frame. ColorTouch brings HVAC distributors and contractors a new revenue opportunity that is attractively priced for them and their customers. Compatible with virtually every type of heating and air conditioning system, ColorTouch is priced at approximately half the competitor's touch screen thermostat, with an estimated street price of less than \$200.

"ColorTouch is the thermostat redefined," said Steve Dushane, president and CEO of Venstar Inc. "With customizable background wallpapers and screensavers, including the users' own photos, ColorTouch delivers the look and feel of a digital picture frame on the thermostat. This vibrant and simple-to-use thermostat will be easy for contractors to sell to their customers. After all, it's the thermostat contractors want to put in their own homes."

### **Easy to Install and Program**

ColorTouch is installation-friendly with its output test screen that allows the contractor to test the system. Its graphical user interface shows what outputs turn on and which outputs should be on, so the contractor can ensure that all equipment is connected and working properly. The ColorTouch 'My Thermostat' screens allow the contractor to look at the thermostat status, making it easier to troubleshoot equipment or wiring issues. In addition, programming and configuration may be done in advance using the provided ColorTouch Assistant software and an SD memory card (not included).

## **Contractor's Service Information in the Thermostat**

Contractors can input their contact information into the thermostat itself so when a user has need for service, they can press the Service Information to find the contractor's information.

The Service Information page also comes up when there is a Reminder Alert. Contractors can program Reminder Alerts to let users know it is time to call for service at scheduled intervals, such as for a winter check-up or spring cleaning. As well, when it's time for the user to change their air filters or UV lights, ColorTouch will automatically show the Service Information page so the user can call for service.

The contractor can also input their information using the ColorTouch Assistant software, which also allows them to include their logo. Whether they input their information into the thermostat itself or use ColorTouch Assistant, they can include their company name, contact name, telephone, email and Web site.

Using ColorTouch Assistant, the contractors can upload their company logos by clicking on the logo icon and uploading the logo file from their computers. ColorTouch Assistant automatically sizes the logo and puts it into the Service Information page, and the contractor types in the rest of the contact information.

## **Automatic Software and Firmware Updates**

Every time the user runs the ColorTouch Assistant software, it automatically connects to Venstar's ColorTouch Web site in the background and updates the software and firmware (the operating system for ColorTouch) at no cost.

The firmware updates the SD memory card to be uploaded to the thermostat, which then updates the thermostat. Updating the firmware ensures that the user always has the most current system software, including new features and performance enhancements.

This helps ensure the contractor does not have to be called to do software or firmware updates.

## **ColorTouch User Features and Benefits Redefine the Thermostat**

### **Customizable Appearance Using Users' Own Photos**

- Users can customize the appearance of their ColorTouch thermostats by using their own photos for the screen savers and background wallpaper.
- Importing photos into the ColorTouch thermostat is simple using ColorTouch Assistant software and an SD memory card.
- Compatible with any Mac or PC desktop or laptop computer, ColorTouch Assistant is included with the ColorTouch thermostat and can be downloaded from Venstar's Web site at no cost.

- With ColorTouch Assistant, users can customize their photos with ColorTouch Assistant's built-in editing features and can use the "preview" feature to see how the photo will look as background wallpaper once the thermostat info is placed over the photo.
- Users may install up to 100 photos for the thermostat, all of which can rotate as a slideshow when the thermostat is in screen saver mode. If desired, any of these photos may also be selected as the background wallpaper for the thermostat.

### **Built-in Nature and Holiday-Themed Photo Gallery**

- ColorTouch also comes with more than a dozen built-in nature and holiday-themed photos that can be used as background wallpaper for the thermostat.
- Holiday themes include Christmas, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving, Halloween and Cinco de Mayo. Each theme has separate photos displaying daytime and nighttime shots, along with showing the sun for day and the moon for night.

### **ColorTouch Assistant's Five Menu Items Make Programming Fast and Easy for Users**

The ColorTouch Assistant software has five main menu items that make programming the ColorTouch thermostat fast and easy for users, including:

- **Picture Gallery** — users can easily find and upload their own photos. Editing tools allow for photo placement, color and brightness adjustments.
- **Service Information** — allows the contractor to provide service contact information and their logo.
- **Schedule** — users can see an "overview" of the time period schedule for heating and cooling and can edit the schedule from any Mac or PC desktop or laptop computer running ColorTouch Assistant. The user can also view and change the schedule directly from the thermostat.
- **Thermostat Settings** — users can adjust preferences, alerts, daylight savings, clock, vacation, security, and overall system settings using ColorTouch Assistant or directly at the thermostat.
- **Automatic Updates to ColorTouch Software and Firmware** (the operating system and feature set).

### **SD Memory Card Makes Uploads Easy; Users Can Also Import Between Thermostats**

ColorTouch was designed with the ultimate in flexibility for programming, uploading and sharing information between thermostats. With the SD memory card, users can:

- Upload images for the ColorTouch screensaver and background wallpaper.
- Save settings from an existing ColorTouch thermostat that can be exported to other thermostats (so the user doesn't have to program each individual thermostat).

### **Engaging Touch Screen User Interface With a Choice of Screensaver Visuals**

- ColorTouch offers a choice of three screensaver modes:
  - **Slideshow** from the users' photos or built-in photo gallery
    - Home Screen information can be included in the slideshow rotation (every five photos).
  - **Digital Clock**
    - For the digital clock, the thermostat also shows the room temperature, displaying heating status with a red ring around the temperature number, or cooling with a blue ring around the number.
  - **Analog Clock**
    - The user can include the digital or analog clock in the slideshow rotation (every five photos).

### **“Simple as You Want” Operation Lets User Customize Thermostat Info on Display**

- “Simple as You Want” operation allows the user to remove the cooling references for homes without air conditioning.
- “Simple as You Want” operation allows ColorTouch to be installed as a programmable or non-programmable thermostat.
- “Simple Stat” operation mode provides enlarged display numbers and fewer display items, making it perfect for the most basic users.

### **Scheduler Keeps Home Temperature Comfortable, Display Is Easy to Read**

- Intuitive “Time Period” Scheduler automatically changes the temperature and mode for up to four periods per day, allowing for comfortable temperatures for sleeping, waking, and daytime, plus an energy savings mode for when no one is home.

### **At-a-Glance Screen Lets Users See Temperature and Heating/Cooling Status**

- “At-a-Glance” screen — clearly shows the user heating and cooling status, as well as the room temperature.
- Heat and Cool Indicators give “at-a-glance” information on heating and cooling, so users can easily see if air conditioning or heating equipment is on (the temperature number in blue if air conditioning is on; in red if heating is on).
- Optional Outdoor Temperature Sensor — The ColorTouch thermostat can be wired with an outdoor sensor so that the outside temperature can be displayed right on the screen. The user has the option to display the high and low temperatures for the day.

### **Comfort Features for Nighttime Dimmer**

- Nighttime dimmer for bedroom thermostats gives the user the ability to adjust the time the dimmer is on.
- Users can also adjust the active brightness (when it is being touched) and the idle brightness, from 0 to 100 percent brightness with complete darkness being an option when the dimmer is idle.

## **Energy Usage Info at the User's Fingertips**

- Easy access to Energy Usage Information lets users easily see how much energy has been used to heat and cool for the past seven days. This helps users evaluate energy conservation options, giving them the opportunity to decrease energy costs.
- Vacation settings to save energy when the house is unoccupied for extended periods.

## **Security of Locking Thermostat**

- Option to engage an automatic screen lock that can lock the screen minutes after it has been touched and requires a pass code to enable access (eliminates kids or guests changing thermostat settings).
- Ability to enforce temperature set point limits — the system runs within set temperature parameters so that no one can run the air conditioning too low or the heat too high.

## **Customizable Faceplates to Match Home Décor**

- Users can also choose their own customizable faceplates to match their home décor.
- Options include white (supplied), black, silver, and wood grain.
- A wall plate is available, if needed, to conceal the wall area where a larger thermostat previously existed.

## **Automatic Daylight Savings Adjustments, Multiple Languages, Alerts and More**

- Daylight Savings mode automatically adjusts for daylight savings.
- Language choices of English, Spanish or French.
- Reminder alerts remind the user to change the filter and who to call for service.
- Ability to name the thermostat — each thermostat can have its own name, such as “Upstairs Thermostat” or even more friendly names, such as “The Smith Home.”

## **Compatible With Virtually All Heating and Air Conditioning Equipment**

- ColorTouch is compatible with most heating and air conditioning equipment and controls gas/electric or heat pump equipment, with up to 4 heating and 2 cooling stages. It is dual-fuel capable.

## **Exceptional Value at Approximately Half the Cost of Competitive Thermostats**

ColorTouch is priced at approximately 50 percent less than competitors' touch screen thermostats and has many unique features not available in other brands. As well, it comes with the quality and value that is built into all Venstar products. Venstar has been a leader in thermostats for more than 18 years.

## **Availability**

Venstar sells ColorTouch via a nationwide distribution network with thousands of contractors. For more information, visit:

<http://www.venstar.com/Thermostats/ColorTouch>

Email: [sales@venstar.com](mailto:sales@venstar.com)

Telephone: 818-812-9930

## **About Venstar Inc.**

Founded in 1992, Venstar Inc. is a leading thermostat and energy management system (EMS) supplier, known for providing value to its customers via ease of use and installation, proven cost savings, improved energy efficiency, quality and reliability. Venstar is one of the largest thermostat suppliers in the world and designs and produces Venstar-branded products, as well as OEM thermostat products for the biggest names in HVAC. Venstar's Surveyor is a leading energy management system, typically saving small-box retailers 25percent of their energy costs, which translates to millions of dollars in savings and dramatic reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Surveyor currently controls the energy usage of more than 12,000 retail locations across the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

Web site: [www.venstar.com](http://www.venstar.com)

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